

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including an RF electrode with a conductive portion and a dielectric between the conductive portion and a skin surface when the RF electrode is positioned at the skin.
2. (original) The handpiece of claim 1, further comprising:
a cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly coupled to the insert and the handpiece housing.
3. (original) The handpiece of claim 1, wherein the cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a fluid delivery member coupled to a cooling fluidic medium valve member.
4. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the handpiece housing.
5. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the electrode assembly.
6. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the fluid delivery member is positioned in the handpiece housing.
7. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the fluid delivery member is positioned in the insert.
8. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the fluid delivery member includes a nozzle.
9. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to deliver a controllable amount of cooling fluidic medium to the RF electrode.
10. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to the back surface of the RF electrode.

11. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including an RF electrode with a conductive portion and a dielectric, a tissue interface surface and a back surface; and

~~The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the~~ a fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver fluid to a backside of the RF electrode to evaporatively cool the RF electrode and conductively cool a skin surface in contact with the front side of the RF electrode.

12. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including an RF electrode with a conductive portion and a dielectric, a tissue interface surface and a back surface; and

a cooling member that includes ~~The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the~~ a fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to the back surface of the RF electrode at substantially any orientation of the front surface of the RF electrode tissue interface surface relative to a direction of gravity.

13. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, wherein the RF electrode is being sufficiently sealed to minimize flow of a cooling fluidic medium from the back surface of the RF electrode to a skin surface in contact with the front surface of the RF electrode the tissue interface surface.

14. (original)) The handpiece of claim 1, wherein the insert includes a vent.

15. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is configured to provide a pulsed delivery of a cooling fluidic medium.

16. (original) The handpiece of claim 3, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member includes a solenoid valve

17. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including an RF
electrode with a conductive portion and a dielectric, the dielectric capacitively coupling energy
from the RF electrode to skin surface; and

~~The handpiece of claim 1, further comprising:~~

a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode, the force sensor configured to zero out
gravity effects of the weight of the electrode assembly.

18. (original) The handpiece of claim 17, wherein the force sensor is configured to detect an amount of force applied by the RF electrode against a surface.

19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including an RF
electrode with a conductive portion and a dielectric, a tissue interface surface and a back
surface; and

a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode, The handpiece of claim 17,
wherein the force sensor is configured to zero out gravity effects of the weight of the electrode assembly in any orientation of a front surface of the RF electrode relative to a direction of gravity.

21. (original) The handpiece of claim 17, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide an indication of RF electrode contact with a skin surface.

22. (original) The handpiece of claim 17, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a signal indicating that a force applied by the RF electrode to a contacted skin surface is below a minimum threshold.

23. (original) The handpiece of claim 17, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a signal indicating that a force applied by the RF electrode to a contacted skin surface is above a maximum threshold.

24. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including an RF
electrode with a conductive portion and a dielectric, a tissue interface surface and a back
surface;

a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode, and ~~The handpiece of claim 17, further~~
comprising:

a tare button coupled to the force sensor.

25. (original) The handpiece of claim 1, wherein the RF electrode includes a flex circuit.

26. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 25, wherein the flex circuit is
configured to isolate flow of a cooling fluidic medium from a the back surface of the RF
electrode to ~~a front surface of the RF electrode~~ the tissue interface surface.

27. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 25, wherein the flex circuit is
configured to create a reservoir for a cooling fluidic medium that gathers at a the back surface of
the RF electrode.

28. (original) The handpiece of claim 17, wherein the RF electrode includes a
conductive portion and a dielectric portion.

29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing;
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing; and
an RF electrode at least partially positioned in the insert, the RF electrode including a
flex circuit, the RF electrode having a conductive portion and a dielectric that is positioned
between the conductive portion and a skin surface when the RF electrode is positioned at the
skin surface.

31. (original) The handpiece of claim 30, further comprising:

a cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly coupled to the insert and the handpiece

housing

32. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~30~~ 31, wherein the cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a fluid delivery member coupled to a cooling fluidic medium valve member.

33. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the handpiece housing.

34. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the electrode assembly.

35. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the fluid delivery member is positioned in the handpiece housing.

36. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the fluid delivery member is positioned in the insert.

37. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the fluid delivery member includes a nozzle.

38. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to deliver a controllable amount of cooling fluidic medium to the RF electrode.

39. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to ~~the~~ a back surface of the RF electrode.

40. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing;
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing; and
an RF electrode positioned in the insert, the RF electrode including a flex circuit;
a cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly with a valve member and coupled to the
insert and the handpiece housing; and ~~The handpiece of claim 32,~~ wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver fluid to a backside of the RF electrode to evaporatively cool the RF electrode and conductively cool a ~~the~~ skin surface in contact with the front side of the RF electrode

41. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 32 40, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to the a back surface of the RF electrode at substantially any orientation of the front surface of the RF electrode relative to a direction of gravity.

42. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 32 40, wherein the RF electrode is sufficiently sealed to minimize flow of a cooling fluidic medium from the back surface of the RF electrode to a skin surface in contact with the front surface of the RF electrode.

43. (original) The handpiece of claim 30, wherein the insert includes a vent.

44. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is configured to provide a pulsed delivery of a cooling fluidic medium.

45. (original) The handpiece of claim 32, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member includes a solenoid valve.

46. (original) The handpiece of claim 30, further comprising:
a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode.

47. (original) The handpiece of claim 46, wherein the force sensor is configured to detect an amount of force applied by the RF electrode against a surface.

48. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing;
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing; and
an RF electrode at least partially positioned in the insert, the RF electrode including a flex circuit; and
a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode ~~The handpiece of claim 46~~, wherein the force sensor is configured to zero out gravity effects of the weight of the electrode assembly.

49. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 46 48, wherein the force sensor is configured to zero out gravity effects of the weight of the electrode assembly in any orientation of a front surface of the RF electrode relative to a direction of gravity.

50. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 46 48, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide an indication of RF electrode contact with a skin surface.

51. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 46 48, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a signal indicating that a force applied by the RF electrode to a contacted skin surface is below a minimum threshold.

52. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 46 48, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a signal indicating that a force applied by the RF electrode to a contacted skin surface is above a maximum threshold.

53. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 46 48, further comprising:
a tare button coupled to the force sensor.

54. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing;
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing; and
an RF electrode at least partially positioned in the insert, the RF electrode including a flex circuit; ~~The handpiece of claim 30~~, wherein the flex circuit is configured to isolate flow of a cooling fluidic medium from a back surface of the RF electrode to a front surface of the RF electrode.

55. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing;
an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing; and
an RF electrode at least partially positioned in the insert, the RF electrode including a flex circuit; ~~The handpiece of claim 30~~, wherein the flex circuit is configured to create a reservoir for a cooling fluidic medium that gathers at a the back surface of the RF electrode.

56. (original) The handpiece of claim 30, wherein the RF electrode includes a conductive portion and a dielectric portion.

57. (original) The handpiece of claim 30, wherein the RF electrode is configured to be capacitively coupled to a skin surface when at least a portion of the RF electrode is in contact with the skin surface.

58. (currently amended) A handpiece, comprising:
a handpiece assembly including a handpiece housing; and

an insert detachably coupled to the handpiece housing, the insert including a flex circuit and an RF electrode that includes a conductive portion and a dielectric positioned to provide capacitive coupling between the conductive portion and a tissue surface.

59. (cancelled)

60. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 58, wherein the ~~cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a fluid delivery member coupled to~~ fluid delivery member includes a cooling fluidic medium valve member.

61. (original) The handpiece of claim 60, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the handpiece housing.

62. (original) The handpiece of claim 60, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the electrode assembly.

63. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~60~~ 58, wherein the fluid delivery member is positioned in the handpiece housing.

64. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~60~~ 58, wherein the fluid delivery member is positioned in the insert.

65. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~60~~ 58, wherein the fluid delivery member includes a nozzle.

66. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~60~~ 58, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to deliver a controllable amount of cooling fluidic medium to the RF electrode.

67. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~60~~ 58, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to the back surface of the RF electrode.

68. (cancelled)

69. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim ~~60~~ 58, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to the back surface of the

RF electrode at substantially any orientation of the front surface of the RF electrode relative to a direction of gravity.

70. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 60 58, wherein the RF electrode is sufficiently sealed to minimize flow of a cooling fluidic medium from the back surface of the RF electrode to a skin surface in contact with the front surface of the RF electrode.

71. (original) The handpiece of claim 58, wherein the insert includes a vent.

72. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 60 58, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is configured to provide a pulsed delivery of a cooling fluidic medium.

73. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 60 58, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member includes a solenoid valve.

74. (original) The handpiece of claim 58, further comprising:
a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode.

75. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, wherein the force sensor is configured to detect an amount of force applied by the RF electrode against a surface.

76. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, wherein the force sensor is configured to zero out gravity effects of the weight of the electrode assembly.

77. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, wherein the force sensor is configured to zero out gravity effects of the weight of the electrode assembly in any orientation of a front surface of the RF electrode relative to a direction of gravity.

78. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide an indication of RF electrode contact with a skin surface.

79. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a signal indicating that a force applied by the RF electrode to a contacted skin surface is below a minimum threshold.

80. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, wherein the force sensor is configured to provide a signal indicating that a force applied by the RF electrode to a contacted skin surface is above a maximum threshold.

81. (original) The handpiece of claim 74, further comprising:
a tare button coupled to the force sensor.

82. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 58, wherein the flex circuit is configured to isolate flow of a cooling fluidic medium from a the back surface of the RF electrode to a the front surface of the RF electrode.

83. (currently amended) The handpiece of claim 58, wherein the flex circuit is configured to create a reservoir for a cooling fluidic medium that gathers at a the back surface of the RF electrode.

84. (original) The handpiece of claim 58, wherein the RF electrode is configured to be capacitively coupled to a skin surface when at least a portion of the RF electrode is in contact with the skin surface.

85. (new) An RF apparatus, comprising:
a housing; and

an RF electrode coupled to the housing, the RF electrode having a conductive portion and a dielectric that is positioned between the conductive portion and a skin surface when the RF electrode is positioned at the skin and provide capacitive coupling between the conductive portion and the skin surface.

86. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly coupled to the housing.

87. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 86, wherein the cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a valve member.

88. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 86, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the housing.

89. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 87, wherein the cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a nozzle.

90. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 86, wherein the fluid delivery member is

configured to deliver a controllable amount of cooling fluidic medium to the RF electrode

91. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 86, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to a back surface of the RF electrode.

92. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 85, further comprising:
a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode.

93. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 85, wherein the RF electrode includes a flex circuit.

94. (new) An RF apparatus, comprising:
a housing; and
an RF electrode coupled to the housing, the RF electrode including a conductive portion and a dielectric portion that capacitively couples the conductive portion to a tissue surface; and
a flex circuit coupled to the RF electrode.

Alt. Cont.
95. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 94, further comprising:
a cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly coupled to the housing.

96. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 95, wherein the cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a valve member.

97. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 95, wherein the cooling fluidic medium valve member is positioned in the housing.

98. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 97, wherein the cooling fluidic medium dispensing assembly includes a nozzle.

99. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 95, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to deliver a controllable amount of cooling fluidic medium to the RF electrode.

100. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 95, wherein the fluid delivery member is configured to controllably deliver a cooling fluidic medium to a back surface of the RF electrode.

101. (new) The RF apparatus of claim 94, further comprising:
a force sensor coupled to the RF electrode.

102. (new) An RF apparatus, comprising:

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a housing; and

an RF electrode coupled to the housing, the RF electrode including a backside, a front side and a flex circuit with at least a portion of RF electrode formed of the flex circuit.
